WAS-2054

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October 26, 1965

Mr. Laurence Stern
Washington Post
1515 L. St., nw
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Stern,

Enclosed is a tracing of the map that appeared on the front page of the Dallas Morning News November 22, 1963. You will recall we discussed this map this morning. Note that it shows the motorcade route was not going past the Depository, not going to ~~the~~ Main Street at all, was to have turned into the triple underpass entrance to Stemmons Freeway and, in fact, the artist added the words "Triple Underpass" at the point of the turn. This map dies not even refer to Elm Street.

I did not use all I could have on this. For example, on page 31 of the Report, near the bottom, in discussion of the plans made by Lawson and Sorrels for the motorcade route: "This route (i.e, the one they had driven over), eventually selected for the motorcade.....passed through a portion of suburban Dallas, through the downtown area along Main Street and then to the Trade Mart via Stemmons Freeway." No mention of Elm.

On the other hand, the Report argues (page 39, first full paragraph):"The Elm Street approach to the Stemmons Freeway is necessary in order to avoid the traffic hazards which would otherwise exist if right turns were permitted from both Main and Elm into the freeway. ...concrete barrier presents an obstacle to a right turn from Main accross Elm (note does not say prevents) ... makes it impracticle for vehicles to turn right ..." All of this is with reference to normal, not Presidential traffic. But even normal traffic can make this turn. The Report, without specifically acknowledging this, reflects it in the next sentence, "A sign located on this barrier instructs Main Street traffic not to make any turns."

On page 40 the Report quotes the Dallas Morning News as reprting on November 19 that the route would use Elm Street. It on the same page quotes the same paper for the 22nd. "On the morning of the President's ~~visit~~ arrival...noted the motorcade would travel through downtown Dallas onto Stemmons Freeway, and reported that 'the motorcade will move slowly so that crowds can "get a good ~~look~~ view" of President Kennedy and his wife.'" Please note that the Report refers to what this paper that morning "noted". But it does so neither honestly nor fairly, for what the paper "noted" was that the route would not be under the windows of the Depository, not on Elm Street at all, and would make the turn the Report argued was precluded by traffic regulations. My point is that ~~this~~ this lack of honesty cannot be regarded as accidental and has nomplace in such a report.

I regret very much that your other obligations and necessities have prevented your more rapid readings. I am anxious for you to complete the book. But I also need it. As of now I plan to be in New York the end of the first week of November or the beginning of the second week. During the second week, I should like to pick it up. If you haven't finished with it, perhaps I can return a copy later, if you'd like.

Sincerely yours,